WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A data processing system for bulk data transfer comprising:

2   a source data processing system for distributing data to one or more target data

3   processing systems;

4   one or more fan-out nodes for transferring said data between said source

5   system and each of said one or more target data processing systems and transferring

6   result information between said one or more target data processing systems and a

7   preselected set of one or more data processing systems for managing data

8   distributions.

1   2.   The system of Claim 1 wherein each of said one or more fan-out nodes is

2   operable for caching at least a portion of a data distribution and at least a portion of

3   said result information.

1   3.   The system of Claim 1 wherein a data distribution has a preselected priority,

2   said preselected priority operable for determining an availability of resources for said

3   transferring of said data and said transferring of said result information.

1   4.   The system of Claim 1 wherein said one or more fan-out nodes comprises a

2   plurality of fan-out nodes, and wherein said transferring of said data comprises:

3   receiving said data from said source data processing system by a first fan-out

4   node;

1   9.   A method for distributing data comprising the steps of:

2   transferring said data via a first set of one or more fan-out nodes to one or

3   more endpoint systems; and

4   transferring results information via a second set of said one or more fan-out

5   nodes from said one or more endpoint systems to a preselected set of one or more data

6   processing systems for managing data distributions, said results information

7   generated in response to said step of transferring said data.

1   10.   The method of Claim 9 wherein each of said one or more fan-out nodes is

2   operable for caching at least a portion of a data distribution and at least a portion of

3   said result information.

1   11.   The method of Claim 9 wherein said step of transferring said data is

2   performed in response to a request received from at application on at least one of said

3   plurality of endpoints.

1   12.   The method of claim 11 wherein said request includes:

2   a list of target data processing systems to receive the data;

3   an identifier of a method by which the target machines will receive and

4   process the data; and

5   an identifier of a notification method by which said result information from

6   each endpoint system will be received by said preselected set of one or more data

7   processing systems for managing data distributions.

16.   A computer program product embodied in a machine readable storage medium, the program product including programming for distributing data comprising instructions for:

transferring said data via a first set of one or more fan-out nodes to one or more endpoint systems; and

transferring results information via a second set of said one or more fan-out nodes from said one or more endpoint systems to a preselected set of one or more data processing systems for managing data distributions, said results information generated in response to said step of transferring said data.

17.   The program product of Claim 16 wherein each of said one or more fan-out nodes is operable for caching at least a portion of a data distribution and at least a portion of said result information.

18.   The program product of Claim 16 wherein said instructions for transferring said data are performed in response to a request received from at application on at least one of said plurality of endpoints.

19.   The program product of claim 18 wherein said request includes:

a list of target data processing systems to receive the data;

an identifier of a method by which the target machines will receive and process the data; and